

FORM B – BUILDING

Assessor's Number USGS Quad Area(s) Form Number

24-21

Orleans

EAS.1270

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
MASSACHUSETTS ARCHIVES BUILDING
220 MORRISSEY BOULEVARD
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02125

Town/City: EASTHAM

Place: (*neighborhood or village*): Nauset

Photograph



2015 Assessor Photo, looking north.

Address: 745 Doane Road

Historic Name: Elgie and Earle Milliken House

Uses: Present: Single Family Dwelling House

Original: Single Family Dwelling House

Date of Construction: 1935

Source: Eastham Tax Commitment Books

Style/Form: No Style / Full Cape

Architect/Builder: Unknown

Exterior Material:

Foundation: Unknown

Wall/Trim: Wood shingles/ Wood

Roof: Asphalt shingles

Outbuildings/Secondary Structures:

Large outbuilding (use unknown)

Major Alterations (*with dates*):

None

Condition: Good

Moved: no ☒ yes ☐ **Date:**

Acreage: 1.64 acres

Setting: This property is located close to the ocean in the midst of the National Seashore. This parcel rises up from Doane Road. The house is set back on the parcel, accessed by a clamshell driveway, and it is obscured from public view by stands of scrub pine. The surrounding area is sparsely settled, mostly with mid-20th century houses as well as two 19th century houses to the west.

Locus Map



Recorded by: Eric Dray, Preservation Consultant, for

Organization: Eastham Historical Commission

Date (*month / year*): April 2025

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☐ Recommended for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

If checked, you must attach a completed National Register Criteria Statement form.

Use as much space as necessary to complete the following entries, allowing text to flow onto additional continuation sheets.

ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

Describe architectural features. Evaluate the characteristics of this building in terms of other buildings within the community.

(The house is obscured from the street; this Architectural Description may not describe all features accurately.)

The Elgie C. and Earle L. Milliken House, built in 1935, has the form of a Full Cape.¹ As can be seen from the attached Assessor sketch (Figure 1), there is a long ell extending from the left (west) side of the main block. The elevations are clad in weathered wood shingles with plain cornerboards. The roof is clad in asphalt shingles, and an exterior brick chimney rises from the right (east) side elevation. There are three dormers across the front roof slope. The front elevation has the five bay configuration with centered entrance typical of the Full Cape form. The windows all appear to be 6/6 double-hung sash (unclear if thermal or original). The front entrance is protected by a large gable-roofed entrance porch.

HISTORICAL NARRATIVE

Discuss the history of the building. Explain its associations with local (or state) history. Include uses of the building, and the role(s) the owners/occupants played within the community.

Incorporated as Nauset Plantation in 1646, and changed to Eastham in 1651, Eastham territory originally extended south to Pleasant Bay in Orleans and north beyond Wellfleet Harbor. The early development pattern for what we now know as Eastham was impacted by its absence of deep-water harbor facilities. Relatively fertile soil led to dispersed agricultural settlement, but residential and commercial development was concentrated to the north at Wellfleet Harbor and to the south at Town Cove and Pleasant Bay. When the separate towns of Wellfleet and Orleans were created in the late-18th century, Eastham became and remained one of the least populated towns on the Cape throughout the 19th century.

In the 19th century, Eastham was the agricultural center of the Outer Cape. Crops evolved over time; corn and dairy were surpassed in the early-20th century by asparagus and turnips - two crops well suited for the sandy soil. In 1900, 58% of Eastham's workers were employed as farmers, but by 1930 that number had dwindled to 21%. Summer resort development, including cottage colonies and subdivisions of former farmland that would transform Eastham, had begun in earnest in the 1920s as middle-class access to car ownership increased and Cape roads were improved.

The MHC Building Form for the ca. 1856 Doane-Richardson House at 700 Doane Road (EAS.769) provides an early history of development in this area, including what became this parcel. The house at 700 Doane Road was likely built by Freeman Doane, Jr. (1807-1877), a seventh-generation descendant of Eastham settler John Doane (ca.1590-1685), who came with six other families to settle the town in 1644. The Doane family owned most of the land between Nauset Bay on the south, the Atlantic on the east, and the junction of School House and Nauset Roads on the west. The precise layout of Doane Road has changed over the years.

Much of the property owned by Doane descendants and others in this area was purchased by a series of speculators, and then by the affluent Boston textile executive Albert Greene Duncan between 1916 and 1926. Born in 1868 in Cleveland, OH, Albert Greene Duncan graduated from the University of Rochester in 1891 and became a prominent business executive in various manufactories, served on the boards of directors of numerous textile and other companies, and was president of the National Association of Cotton Manufacturers. He lived most of his life in Brookline with his wife Cora Moulton Hathaway Duncan. By 1924, Duncan had assembled 200 acres into what he named Nauset Moors Farm. The farm was envisioned primarily as an experimental farm focused mostly on raising livestock.

¹ Cape is a form, not an architectural style.

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In 1923, Albert Duncan sold a 9.2-acre parcel of his land on Doane Road that included this property to Frederick N. Bushnell of Brookline.² The parcel was surrounded on the east, north and west by other land of Albert Duncan. Frederick Bushnell (ca. 1867-1950) married Ida Rebecca Sampson in Pensacola, FL in 1892. They lived in Brookline and he worked as a mechanical engineer. They were clearly affluent – census record always included servants in their household. It seems likely that the Duncans and Bushnells, both wealthy families living in Brookline, knew each other, which would account for Duncan selling a piece of land surrounded by his own. The 1923 deed included a 20-year restriction that the parcel be limited to a single dwelling and that the dwelling cost no less than \$5,000.

In 1929, Bushnell sold of portion of this land, with no reference to buildings, to Elgie C. and Earle L. Milliken of Pawtucket, RI.³ The United States Geological Survey (USGS) conducted its first in a series of aerial photographic surveys in 1938, by which time this house was in place (Photo 2). According to the Eastham Tax Commitment Books, this house was built in 1935.

Earle Linwood Milliken was born in Biddeford, ME in 1888. After attending the University of Maine, he held executive posts in the Cotton Thread Institute of New York, the Belamose Corporation of Hartford, Dispersion Products Co. of Needham, and the Stone and Webster Corp. For the last 15 years before his retirement to Eastham, he was an engineer analyst in the Public Utilities Division of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Division.⁴ He died in 1957, and his wife, Nova Scotia-born Elgie (Campbell) died in 1959.

In 1962, under the will of Elgie Milliken, this property was conveyed to their son, Edmond Edgar Milliken.⁵ In 1965, a subdivision was recorded creating the current-sized parcel (Lot 11).⁶ In 1979, Edmond Milliken sold this parcel to Gaston William Norgeot of Rock Harbor, Orleans.⁷ In 1997, under the will of Gaston William Norgeot, this property was conveyed to Suzanne Marie Schwebach of Orleans, and she conveyed it into a trust in 2006.⁸

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² Barnstable County Registry of Deeds, Book 394/ Page 252.

³ Cert. of Title No. 2034.

⁴ "Earle L. Milliken Dies; Was Textile Executive," *Hartford Courant*, 30 April 1957, 6.

⁵ Cert. of Title No. 28926.

⁶ Subdivision Plan No. 8939-P.

⁷ Cert. of Title No. 78300.

⁸ Certs. of Title No. 143805, 178740.

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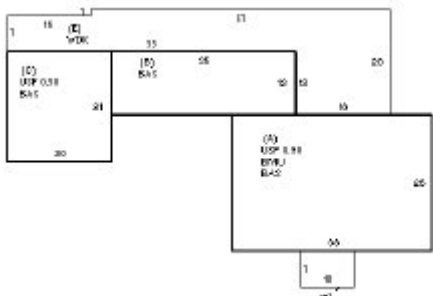


Figure 1. Assessor Sketch.



Photo 2. Detail of 1938 United States Geological Survey aerial photograph (arrow added).